

TRUCK WRECK LOCAL PROTOCOL

Distressed Foods & Other Consumer Products resulting from a Transportation Accident or Other Emergency

Document Date March 2011 v.2 updated February 2015

Based on the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services Food & Consumer Safety Section "Guidelines for Handling Distressed Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics in Truck and Train Wrecks Emergency Response Procedures", September 5, 2008.

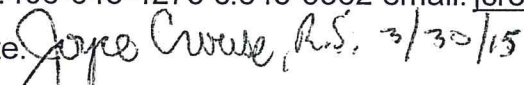
- This guidance is applicable in any transportation accident involving food, drugs, cosmetics, or other consumer products. The purpose of this guidance is to protect public health and safety by preventing consumers from receiving contaminated foods, drugs, cosmetics and other consumer products.

Jurisdiction Information

This protocol is compiled for the jurisdiction of:

Lead Registered Sanitarian: Joyce Crouse

Phone/Email: w:406-843-4275 c:843-5362 email: jcrouse@madison.mt.gov

Signature & Date:  3/30/15

Health Officer: RD Marks, MD

Phone/Email: w:406-682-4223 c:682-3874 email: rmarks@mvmedcenter.org

Signature & Date:  4/8/15

Board of Health Chairperson: Doug Young Dagna Leavens Vice Chair

Phone/Email: w: 406-682-7956 c: 581-3675 email: dbydvm@yahoo.com

Signature & Date:  4/9/15

County Attorney: Chris Christensen

Phone/Email: w: 406-843-4233 email: pdavis@madison.mt.gov

Signature & Date:  3/30/15

Madison County Commissioner:

Phone/Email: w: 406-843-4277 email: madco@madison.mt.gov

Signature & Date:  4-6-15
Chair

Emergency Contact Information

Montana Dept of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS):

Food & Consumer Safety (FCS) during work hours: 406-444-5303 or 406-444-2837

DPHHS Duty Officer 406-461-2042

FCS Fax: 406-444-5055

Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau 24/7: 406-444-0273

Sherriff's Office: 406-843-5301

Sanitarian(s) On Call: Working on MOU with neighboring Beaverhead County.

Preparation Planning

- 1) Determine 24/7 emergency sanitarian coverage for your jurisdiction. Single-sanitarian jurisdictions are encouraged to make a memo of understanding with a neighboring sanitarian.
- 2) Provide the DPHHS “Guidance for Law Enforcement” to your Sheriff’s office or other appropriate law enforcement agency. DPHHS public health emergency preparedness staff will relay the same document to Montana Highway Patrol (MHP).
- 3) Wrecker services and the responsible person usually make storage arrangements, but the local sanitarian should know of adequate holding facilities in their area.
- 4) Complete cover page 1. Staple Local Protocol, State Protocol and Report Forms.
- 5) Share your local protocol with emergency preparedness partners.
- 6) Assemble Go Kit containing local protocol, embargo tags, trailer seals, cell phone, camera, pens/pencils, thermometer and other recommended supplies. Possibilities include gear bag, first aid kit, cold weather gloves, nitrile gloves, GPS unit, reflective vest, reflective coat, dust mask, flashlight, overboots, hard hat, hearing protection, safety glasses, notepaper, and leatherman multi-tool.

Response

1) Communication. Law enforcement (MHP or a local officer) responds to the scene. Law enforcement notifies MHP dispatch if needed. MHP contacts the local Dept of Emergency Services (DES) and, ideally, the county sanitarian. Local DES calls the state DES. State DES calls the DPHHS duty officer, who then calls FCS. FCS will verify that a county sanitarian has been notified. The county sanitarian is encouraged to call FCS directly, to save time. If after hours, the health officer can call the 24/7 DPHHS duty officer. FCS also contacts other agencies as needed.

2) Authority and Responsibility. Almost always, the food products, drugs or cosmetics will be transported across county lines or interstate, making the state responsible for product control. The local health jurisdiction acts as the state’s authorized agent.

If the products are meat or poultry, then FCS will contact USDA and/or MDOL. As directed by USDA, products will be moved to the nearest inspected facility.

The responsible person/entity is obligated to control their products. Shipping contracts will contain this information (examples are shipping companies, receivers, haulers or drivers). The wrecker service usually takes over traffic control responsibility when law enforcement leaves the scene.

The sanitarian should take steps to track the products and prevent pilferage. Official seals can be attached to containers if measures are needed to stop illegal salvaging or the load requires an inspection upon destination arrival. (Note: seals are available from FCS or law enforcement.) This allows DPHHS to follow-up with the disposition of the sealed load in the receiving jurisdiction. Embargo or detainment of product is used if voluntary agreements cannot be obtained. Contact FCS for embargo authorization. If the situation needs crowd control, call law enforcement.

3) Documentation. Collect information as indicated on the "Truck Wreck Report" form. This is easiest to obtain from the responding law enforcement within the hour of the wreck. The wrecker service and responsible person usually make storage arrangements. A "Voluntary Disposal Agreement" or a "Voluntary Holding Agreement" form is completed by the sanitarian and the responsible person after an assessment of the products is made.

4) Damage Assessment. If damage is minimal, meaning the vehicle is not broken open, there is no obvious contamination, and there is no known benefit for a site visit, then products can be moved into a central location for observation and inspection. Pictures are very helpful in determining the extent of potential damage.

If the damage is not minimal, then a site visit is needed by the sanitarian.

5) Salvagability. Salvaging requires licensing as of 2004. Currently only one business is licensed –Montana Foodbank Network based in Missoula.

The products are salvageable, if all of the following are true:

- a) The load did not contain chemicals that could cause contamination.
- b) No products were exposed to dust, dirt, flies, fuels, oils, refrigerants, or other hazardous materials.
- c) Potentially hazardous foods were not above 45°F for more than 2 hours.
- d) Fresh produce is not wilted or frozen.
- e) Containers are not damaged.
- f) Soft plastic containers were not exposed to chemicals, fumes or moisture.
- g) Cans are not dented along any seam or significantly dented elsewhere.

Damaged food may be suitable for animal feed, if approval is given by the MT Dept of Agriculture.

Disposal is necessary if the products are not salvageable or not suitable for animal feed. Often the responsible person chooses to dispose of the products on their own accord.

6) Completion. Fax completed wreck report and signed voluntary disposal or holding forms to FCS at 406-444-5055.